



## Media Musings

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Africa Inland Mission Retirement Center

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We are excited to bring you the next newsletter of the AIM Retirement Center, "Media". The reason for the newsletter is to keep you informed on what is happening at Media as well as give information about the missionaries who live here. The 80+ residents and staff represent more than 2,200 years of ministry. We hope this newsletter will help you get to know some of them and what they do at Media. You can also find this at [www.retirementcenter.aimsites.org](http://www.retirementcenter.aimsites.org). The Editors

### SPRING BRINGS THE PROMISE OF HARVEST

The long dry season is about to end. Harvests, from the previous season, have all come in and if that planting time had produced little food because of scarcity of rain, families were in dire straits and were going hungry. Any grain harvested that had been stored in outside bins was finished and a few ears of maize still in its husk hung from the rafters and poles in the hut. Chickens scratched the ground looking for anything edible; village dogs, and even the cattle, were thin and emaciated. That African sun parched all the ground.

Clouds were beginning to gather; a hope of rains to come. Folks, either alone or in groups, descended upon the garden areas to hoe the weeds in anticipation.

**Thunder. Lightning. Wind. Rain. Deluge.** Welcome relief.



Now, those who went into the gardens began their digging, often to the beat of drums. The dirt was piled into ridges over those of weeds. As the ridges were formed, others followed planting - precious maize kernels; millet seed, maybe tender sections of manioc branches which would revive, grow and deep underground produce edible roots. Those living near rivers or Lake Victoria may have put catfish heads underground into the mounds before they stuck in some sweet potato vine shoots. Fishy fertilizer but not fishy potatoes!

Down in low-lying areas, wide, flatter sections were prepared for planting rice. Mounds of earth ringed those areas to hold water in. The heavy rains made these areas into shallow ponds into which tender shoots of rice plants, which had been previously tended and had sprouted, were inserted into the earth under all that water.



Now, let the next harvest season come. If the rains kept coming, if the birds were kept away from the developing grain, if the insects didn't decimate the maize - this gave hopes of a good harvest. If the rains were too heavy or continued too long, the plantings died; if the rains were short and scarce, things dried up and didn't develop. If so, then maybe there was time for a second planting (if the rain pattern allowed). Otherwise - another tough time, waiting for the next planting season!

**BUT** we who are in Christ have hope and expectation which is not based on the vagaries of the weather. Our confidence is in our Lord, whose "blood and righteousness" - His atonement and resurrection - is the foundation of our confidence. Hope and expectation, based on changeable factors, gives no assurance. **BUT**, in the words of Fanny Crosby, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory divine. Heirs of salvation, Purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, Washed in His blood".

R.Baker

### MEDIA EVENTS

Christmas brought special programs with our residents presenting a special musical program; our Christmas Tea with a Worship Team from Church of the Lakes (Leesburg) blessing our hearts. We celebrated Vera Hillis' 99th birthday! The Hyssong family came and it was great to see Kayla, whom we had prayed for as a baby, doing so well. Jim & Joan Harding hosted "Rhythm Night" and Ray & Jill Davis hosted Skit Night with Randy & Susan Carpenter —among others— bringing much fun and laughter. Mark & Jan Olander hosted our first Corn Hole Tournament. Definitely more to come!



## GERTRUDE DIXON

Gertrude was born in New Brunswick, Canada and came to know the Lord at the age of 14 through an evangelistic meeting at the local Baptist church she and her parents attended. During her teens she attended a Bible Camp where she met the Bainbridges. She attended New Brunswick Bible Institute and the Univ. of New Brunswick, gaining a degree in education.

Gertrude applied to and was accepted by AIM and in 1966 arrived in Kenya where she served for 20 years teaching in the Girls' Secondary Schools at Mulango and Zombe in Kitui region.



In 1983, while attending an AIM Conference, she met her future husband, Paul Dixon. They were married in 1986 and served at AWANA Club Int. Headquarters for 13 years. In 1999 they moved to Massachusetts and were on staff at the New England Keswick for several years. Paul went to be with the Lord in Jan. 2007 following a massive heart attack. Gertrude remained in the area until Oct. 2015 when she moved to Media. She enjoys the fellowship of everyone here.

## SEEN AROUND MEDIA

~~A Scooter race???~~ Hats knitted by our ladies /volunteers for the Military, Samaritan's Purse, a USA Rescue Mission and Africa, Making sun catchers and kitchen angels. With most involved in their churches and other ministries and various prayer gatherings, we are very busy at Media!



SOWERS AND VOLUNTEERS

WE ARE GRATEFUL:

„,for our SOWERS and volunteers - the RV site is full! They help with so many projects: painting, washing windows, gardening, construction—2 new duplexes, and just about anything else that needs to be done. Their friendship and fellowship is so appreciated.



....for a volunteer group from Riverstone Church of Yardley, Pa. Some joined us for Game Time.



...that Rich Dunkerton is back on the job after suffering a massive stroke in May.



...for a volunteer's son who came with his fellow Eagle Scouts to repair the very sad looking picnic tables .



...for God's help and protection for all of these friends. ' O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD'